ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus are disclosed for controlling the operation of a plurality of security gate operating mechanisms, which may comprise providing a central computer system, including an associated memory system; providing a network connection between the central computer system and each of the plurality of security gate operating mechanisms; storing in the associated memory system software used in operating at least some of the respective security gate operating mechanisms; storing in the associated memory system operating system parameters for each of the respective security gate operating mechanisms; providing over the network the software and operating parameters to respective ones of the security gate operating mechanisms. The method and apparatus may further comprise storing the operating parameters a respective table(s) and/or sub-tables stored in the associated memory system; updating the content of the respective table(s) and/or sub-tables for a respective security gate operating system; providing over the internet the updated respective table(s) and/or sub-tables to the respective security gate operating mechanism; verifying that the updated table(s) and/or sub-tables have been received at the respective security gate operating mechanism; substituting the updated table(s) and/or sub-tables at the respective security gate operating mechanism for a currently used table(s) and/or sub-table. The method and apparatus may further comprise a network connection over one of the Internet, the world wide web, a local area network, a wide area network, an intranet, an extranet or a combination of one or more of these. The method and apparatus may further comprise communicating over the network to the server computer system from at least one of the respective security gate operating mechanisms and/or a remote location a request to update an operating parameter and/or operating system or application software at the respective security gate operating mechanism; processing the requested update at the server computer system; and providing for delivery to the respective security gate operating system either the updated operating parameters and/or operating system or applications software. The method and apparatus may further comprise providing the software to a respective one of the security gate operating systems on a client-server basis running the software on the central computer system as the server and utilizing the operating parameters as stored in the associated memory, or may further comprise providing over the network some of the software and/or operating parameters to a respective one of the security gate operating mechanisms and providing access to some of the software to the respective one of the security gate operating systems on a client-

server basis running the software on the central computer system as the server and utilizing the operating parameters as stored in the associated memory and/or as stored at the security gate operating mechanism.